BARG Newsletter June 2026

Ballarat Amateur Radio Group Inc. #6953T
June 2026 Monthly Newsletter

Next Meeting
11:00AM Saturday 27th June 2026
At the Airport - All Welcome

Contacting us

BARG@BARG.ORG.AU

We're on the web.

www.barg.org.au

https://twitter.com/vk3_barg

https://www.facebook.com/groups/VK3BML/

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Amateur Radio Vol 94 No 3 2026 18
Silicon Chip Review June 2026 19

Front Page; BARG Coffee Morning. Inside and nice and warm.

Times and dates of nets as below

Club Nets: VHF NET: Every Tuesday Night at 8 pm on 146.750 MHz - VK3RBA

HF NET: Every Thursday Night at 8 pm on 3.608 MHz - VK3BML

6m NET: Every Tuesday Night at 8:30 pm on 53.650Mhz RX / 52.650Mhz TX - FM with a 91.5 tone - VK3RWU

LINKED REPEATERS: *The local VK3RBA-70cm repeater on Mt Buninyong is part of a network of linked repeaters covering North-Western Victoria.*
Access details for this repeater have recently changed.
For full details of this linked network and access details see https://www.qrz.com/lookup/vk3rba
You can listen to the system live http://vk3rba.dyndns.org:441/
This linked system may be accessed via IRLP node 9503

BARG inc. OFFICE BEARERS

President	Vacant	Ordinary Member	Tom George VK3DMK
Vice President	Colin Consiglio VK3NCC	Ordinary Member	Ian Fairweather VK3YFD
Secretary	Peter Westgarth VK3APW	Ordinary Member	Doug Ellery VK3DRE
Treasurer	Jeff Rickerby VK3JHR	Ordinary Member	David Martin VK3KQT
Ordinary Member	Craig Cook VK3KG	Ordinary Member	Ben Daniel VK3NRD

The VP's Ramblings

Greetings everyone,

The highlight for BARG this June's report is to remind members that our current financial year is coming to an end and with that, the new membership year is about to start. At the May General meeting, the membership accepted the committee recommendation to keep the subscription level at $40. This was prompted by the good financial position we are in, plus no planned substantial expenditure.

Your support and re commitment to membership helps us to stay strong and viable.

Subscriptions expire at the end of June; keep an eye open for email notices regarding this. In the meantime, you can find details on how to pay your subscription at the bottom right-hand corner on this page: https://www.barg.org.au/?page_id=104

That reminds me, Email is our primary way of keeping in contact with members. If you are not receiving, emails please let one of the committee members know or send an email to BARG@BARG.ORG.AU

Our next General Meeting will be Saturday the 27th of June, 11AM at the club rooms. If you haven't attended for a while, perhaps this is the meeting to aim for.

The Thursday coffee morning gatherings at the club rooms continue as a vibrant gathering, a couple of hours of good company, and solving some of the world's problems.

Goal for 2026 -- Invite and encourage someone who normally wouldn't attend to come along for a meeting.

Thought for the month: Have you popped in and supported the 2m and 80m weekly nets? We've missed you! Details on the front page of https://www.barg.org.au/.

My continued thanks to the committee and members who keep things ticking over. Stay well, stay warm,

Cheers, 73 Colin VK3NCC

The next BARG General Meeting 11:00AM Saturday 27th June 2026

BARG has the sad news to announce that two of our members are now Silent Key

Roger De Valle VK3ADE

Kevin Hughes VK3WN

The club and members extend our condolences to family and friends.

FreeDV

FreeDV activities continue 80m after the BARG 80m Net.

The 80m net is every Thursday Night at 8 pm on 3.608 MHz - VK3BML

https://vu3dxr.in/getting-started-with-freedv-a-beginners-guide-to-digital-voice-on-amateur-radio

The Bendigo RadioFest
Sunday October 11th
BAREC clubrooms
36 Lansell St., East Bendigo

BENDIGO AMATEUR RADIO & ELECTRONICS CLUB
BAREC
VK3CMZ

2026
VKFF NATIONAL
Get Together
ALBURY
NEW SOUTH WALES

BARG Thursday Morning Coffee Club

Commences at 10:00AM at the BARG Club Rooms every Thursday. Ballarat Airport - All Welcome.

Amateur Radio Victoria is seeking any support for a Standard/Advanced online tutorial to be held over the winter months.

The course would be held on Monday nights between 7pm-9pm and run for 14-16 weeks at a cost of $150.00. The tutorial would be initially pitched at the Standard Level, but with Advanced topics either covered during the tutorials and/or afterwards as required. The course would have between 6-8 participants.

A free online assessment service is available after the tutorials are complete.

Let me know If you require a Foundation to Standard upgrade or looking the Advanced level.

Peter Cossins VK3BFG, ACMA Specialist Assessor
Amateur Radio Victoria, vk3bfg@amateurradio.com.au

From the Yeovil Amateur Radio Club Facebook

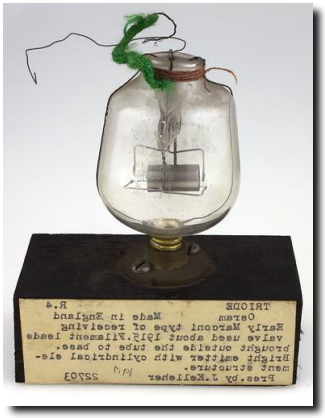
Mary Micklewright

..

From Rob Micklewright G3MYM

Today, the post is about amateur radio on a remote island long ago.

Before World War 1, amateur radio was a localised scientific hobby in the countries of Britain, the USA, Canada, Australia, and probably France. The reason why amateur radio was only local, was that before World War 1, amateur radio transmission distances were only a few tens of miles by groundwave propagation, because at that time, radio amateurs had no means of amplifying the weak skywave signals coming from amateur radio stations a long way away.

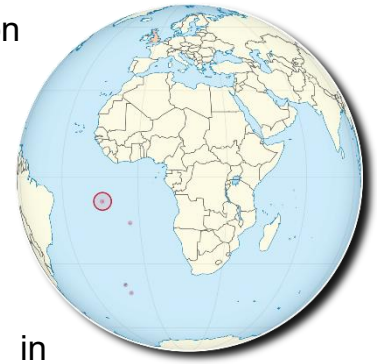


During World War 1, the triode valve was developed into a practical device, thus in the early 1920s, radio amateurs could use triode valves to amplify weak skywave signals, and radio amateurs then developed and used HF radio communication way ahead of the professions, and by the late 1920s, intercontinental amateur radio communication was regularly taking place.

However, amateur radio operation from a remote island in the middle of a vast ocean did not generally happen until after World War 2, when the idea of amateur radio DXpeditions to remote parts of the world took off, and particularly so in the 1950s and 1960s.

However, there was an amateur radio station on Ascension Island in the South Atlantic Ocean, in 1929.

The callsign of the amateur radio station that was on Ascension Island in 1929 was SN1AA.



SN1AA's transmitter was a Hartley oscillator for the 20 metre amateur radio band, and the transmitter had an output power of about 12 watts. The radio receiver was a 0-V-2, and the aerial system was a full wave aerial and counterpoise; and it is almost certain that both the amateur radio equipment and aerial system were homemade.

One of the amateur radio QSOs that SN1AA had, was in November 1929, and was with an amateur radio station near New York in the USA, which was at a great circle distance of about 5,035 miles from Ascension Island.

In December 1929, SN1AA left Ascension Island and returned to Britain.

The next amateur radio station on Ascension Island, as far I know, was VQ8A in 1934; and VQ8A used a type of amateur radio transmitter and a type of radio receiver that were not typical of amateur radio equipment in Britain in the early 1930s.

(NOTE: In the 1920s and 1930s, Ascension Island was, and still is, a British Overseas Territory.)

https://www.facebook.com/groups/1844789352441533

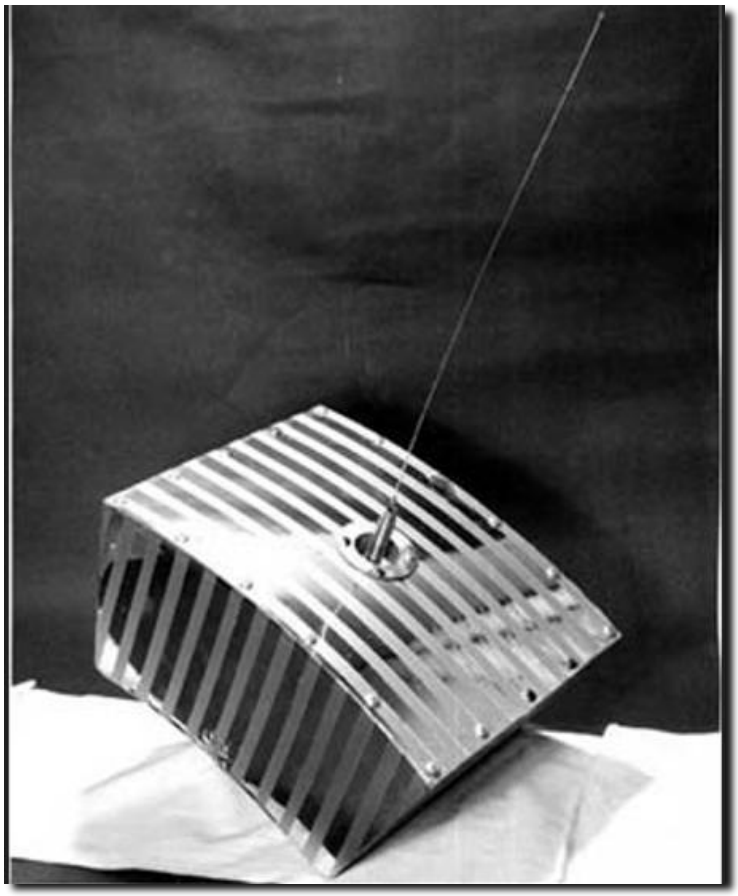
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ascension_Island

AMSAT OSCAR-2 History

Sixty-three years ago, June 2, 1962,, radio amateurs put their second satellite into orbit.

OSCAR 2 lifted off from Vandenberg Air Force Base on June 2, 1962, riding piggyback as ballast on a Thor-Agena B rocket carrying a classified military reconnaissance satellite. The irony is hard to miss — while the Air Force was running a spy mission, a group of volunteer hams had quietly hitched their homebuilt spacecraft along for the ride.

OSCAR 2 was nearly identical to OSCAR 1, which had launched just five and a half months earlier in December 1961. The team had learned from the first flight. They adjusted the thermal coatings to keep temperatures lower inside the spacecraft, tweaked the temperature-sensing system to get better data as the batteries aged, and dropped the transmitter power from 140 mW to 100 mW to stretch battery life.



The satellite operated for 18 days before going silent, re-entering the atmosphere on June 21.

What's remarkable isn't the hardware — it was a simple battery-powered beacon in a metal box — it's what it represented. By June 1962, amateur radio operators had already placed two satellites into orbit, making them among the earliest civilian participants in the Space Age, arriving only four years after Sputnik.

That Project OSCAR lineage runs in a direct line to today's AMSAT satellites, CubeSats, and the ARISS station aboard the ISS.

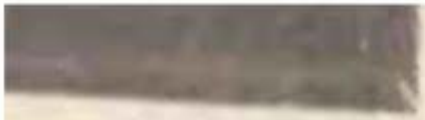
Not bad for a bunch of volunteers working on weekends.

https://mail.google.com/mail/u/1/#inbox/FMfcgzQgMLxHxxgXZGFfzzmKKKDGKGKh

From;

100Years ago Sports Commentary Ban

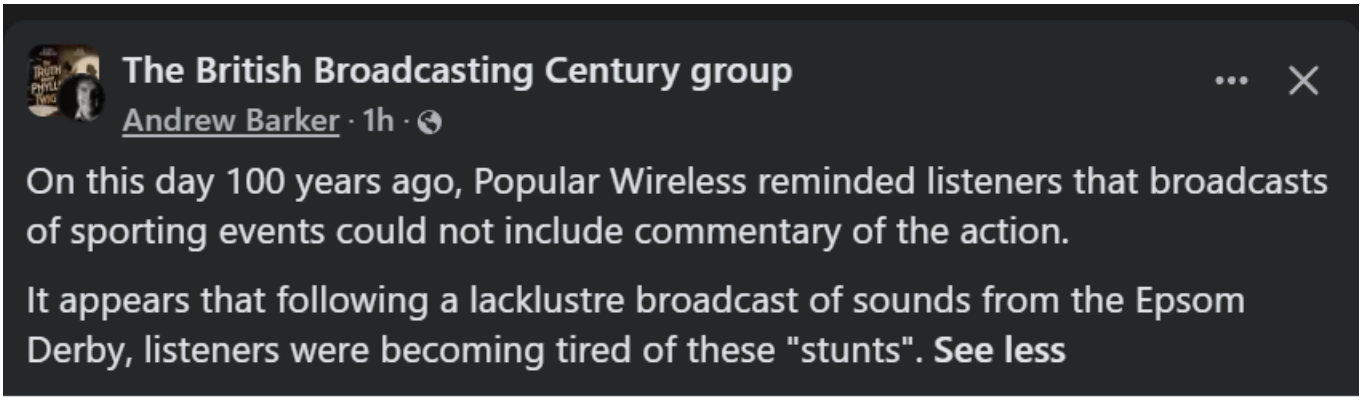
The Derby "Stunt"
Popular Wireless
19th Jun 1926



th "P.W." Blueprint
ill, High Barnet.

The Derby "Stunt."

I hear the Derby broadcast was a bitter disappointment to many listeners. The B.B.C. post-bag has included a good number of angry epistles. The whole point is a misunderstanding of what the B.B.C. can do honourably in a broadcast of the kind. People do not seem to realise that the B.B.C. has certain definite contractual obligations to observe. One of these is that normally no news can go out before seven o'clock. Another is that if a microphone is put near the boat-race or the Derby or any other similar event, the B.B.C. is prohibited from giving any narrative or running commentary or an announcement of the result. The idea of these broadcasts is to give the noises and thus to produce an impression of the atmosphere. Well, this year's Derby was run in pouring rain. There was hardly any noise, and the broadcast was therefore a wash-out. I think the B.B.C. would be well-advised not to undertake any more of these purely "atmosphere" stunts. They only feed-up the vast majority of listeners and make unnecessary enemies.


The British Broadcasting Century group
Andrew Barker · 1h ·
On this day 100 years ago, Popular Wireless reminded listeners that broadcasts of sporting events could not include commentary of the action.
It appears that following a lacklustre broadcast of sounds from the Epsom Derby, listeners were becoming tired of these "stunts". See less

The Derby "Stunt"

https://www.facebook.com/groups/220401106197684

VKN8 Short history of the Metropolitan Fire brigade Medium Wave Radio System

Melbourne Victoria Australia - By Lionel VK3NM/VK6DC (SK). Thanks to Craig VK3KG.

VKN8 was the callsign used by the Metropolitan Fire Brigade dispatching fire trucks to various jobs on approx. 1620 KHz at the top end of the AM broadcast band with replies from the fire trucks back to base on about 83 MHz FM.

The station operated with a power output of about 1000 watts into a loaded " T " vertical with a ground plane on top of the Eastern Hill fire station just east of Melbourne CBD a quarter wave ground plane was mounted on one of the poles for reception of replies on 83 MHz from the fire trucks.

A carrier with some power supply hum was transmitted continuously 24 hours a day with a beep every 30 seconds and sometimes when you hear the base operator giving out jobs you could hear the fire truck replying due to leak through from the VHF receiver on to the MF carrier.

In the evenings VKN8 could be received interstate and I have heard the station in New Zealand, It was very rich in harmonics with the 2nd heard many miles from the station.

On Sunday mornings VKN8 conducted radio checks with all the fire trucks usually with Henry VK3EN as the operator conducting the tests, Henry designed and maintained the station for many years up his retirement, Henry is now a silent key after many years being very active on 160 metres AM.

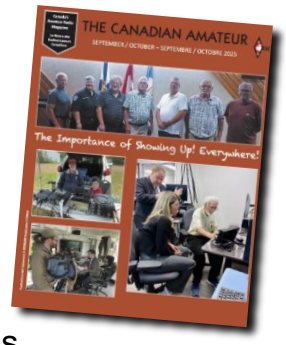
Because of the frequency used VKN8 could be received on any AM radio including car radios and many years before Victoria Police also used MF before moving to VHF and VKN8 closed down on MF in 1972 and are now on UHF.

A List of On-Line Amateur Radio Magazines and Newsletters

From
https://codeberg.org/K3LOE/Amateur_Radio_Magazines/src/branch/main/list.md?utm_source=amateur-radio-weekly&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=newsletter

This is a living list of in-production print and digital magazines related to amateur radio from around the world. All languages welcome. Send a pull request or start an issue to add a magazine.

Print available OR only
- Amateur Radio / AR Magazine (Australia, English)
  - https://www.wia.org.au/members/armag/about/
  - Bi-monthly members-only publication of The Wireless Institute of Australia, but available to the public in print at some newsstands in Australia
- The Canadian Amateur (Canada, English)
  - https://www.rac.ca/tca
  - The membership journal of the Radio Amateurs of Canada. Published bimonthly.



- DUBUS (Deutschland, Deutsch/English)
  - http://www.dubus.org
  (N.B. site is not secure)
  - "DUBUS magazine is an international amateur radio magazine intended for the serious VHF and up operator. Published in Germany, it is fully bilingual (English/German). Four issues/year, each of over 100 A5 pages which are devoted to a mix of state-of-the-art technical articles and DX operating news."

- Electric Radio (English, US)
  - https://www.ermag.com
  - Electric Radio is published bi-monthly primarily for those who appreciate and continue to use vintage radio communications equipment and also for those who are interested in the rich history of radio.
- Funkamateur (Deutschland, Deutsch)
  - https://www.funkamateur.de
  - "Den FUNKAMATEUR gibt es, die Vorgänger einbezogen, seit 1952."

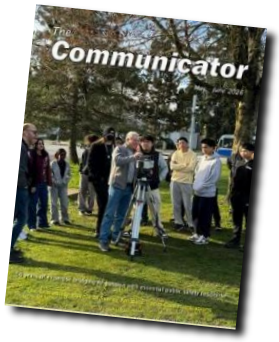
- HAM world (日本/Japan, 日本語/Japanese)
  - bimonthly, Kindle or print
  -

https://www.hamlife.jp/tag/%E3%83%8F%E3%83%A0%E3%83%AF%E3%83%BC%E3%83%AB%E3%83%89/
- JARL News (日本/Japan, 日本語/Japanese)
  - https://www.jarl.org/Japanese/5_Nyukai/nyukai-4.htm
  - Quarterly membership magazine of the Japan Amateur Radio League
- On the Air (English, USA)
  - Requires ARRL membership

  - "On the Air magazine, launched in January 2020, is ARRL's bimonthly magazine for beginner to intermediate ham radio licensees"
  - https://www.arrl.org/on-the-air-magazine

- Practical Wireless (English, UK)
  - https://www.mymagazinesub.co.uk/practical-wireless/v
- QEX Japan
  - https://www.hamlife.jp/tag/qex-japan
  - "...a Japanese version of the technical magazine _QEX_ published by the \[ARRL]\, with the permission of the ARRL. It covers domestic amateur radio and electronics topics, as well as translated articles from the ARRL's official magazine _QST_ and _QEX_."

- QRP Quarterly (English, US)
  - https://www.qrparci.org
  - Journal of the QRP Amateur Radio Club International
- QST (English, US)
  - https://www.arrl.org/qst
  - requires ARRL membership
- RadCom (English, UK)
  - RSGB membership magazine
  - https://rsgb.org/main/publications-archives/radcom/
- SPRAT
  - https://www.gqrp.com/sprat.htm
  - Small Powered Radio Amateur Transmissions (QRP operation)
  - GQRP quarterly membership journal



Digital

- The Communicator (Canada, English)
  - https://www.calameo.com/accounts/7665474
  - A free bi-monthly digital journal for Amateur Radio and electronics enthusiasts, published by Surrey Amateur Radio Communications
- CQ ham radio (日本/Japan, 日本語/Japanese)
  - https://ham.cqpub.co.jp
  - Monthly, from CQ Publishing Co., [established 1954](https://www.cqpub.co.jp/aboutcq.htm)

- The Digital Library of Amateur Radio & Communications
  - https://archive.org/details/dlarc-magazines
  - Magazines and journals within the Digital Library of Amateur Radio & Communications.
- Experimental Radio News
  - https://www.experimentalradio.news
  - "Independent news of the Experimental Radio Service, from the files of the Federal Communications Commission USA."
- Ham Radio Ireland
  - https://galwayvhfgroup.blogspot.com/2022/06/connacht-regional-radio-newsletter.html\
  - "The Magazine written by the Radio Experimenter for the Radio Experimenter...We are freelance and in absolutely no way affiliated to any National Society as this enables us to report on the activities of all Clubs, Groups and organisations from both the North and South of Ireland."
- K9YA Telegraph (English, US)

- https://k9ya.org/index.php/k9ya-telegraph/about
  - "The K9YA Telegraph is a free, monthly, general interest amateur radio magazine read by hams in more than 100 countries."

- The Logger's Bark (English, US)
  - https://w7dk.org/newsletter
  - The Radio Club of Tacoma monthly newsletter/magazine
- National Contest Journal (English, US)
  - https://ncjweb.com
  - Requires ARRL membership
- NAQCC News
  - https://naqcc.info/newsletter_archive.html
  - North American QRP CW Club membership newsletter
  - "NAQCC membership is free and anyone interested in CW/QRP operating is welcome"

- QEX (English, US)
  - https://www.arrl.org/qex
  - Requires ARRL membership
- QTC (English, Australia)
  - https://vkradioamateurs.org/qtc-magazine
  - Monthly publication of The Radio Amateur Society of Australia
  - Membership not required
- Reflector Magazine (English, US)
  - https://www.eastcoastreflector.com/magazine-archive/
  - Published by the East Coast Reflector

- The Spectrum Monitor (English, US)
  - https://thespectrummonitor.com
  - "The Spectrum Monitor Writers' Group consists of former columnists, editors and writers for Monitoring Times, Popular Communications, RadioUser and CQ magazine."
- SWR (Español/English/Italiano, Puerto Rico)
  - https://swrmagazine.org
  - SWR Magazine's mission is to inform, educate, and inspire the global amateur radio community through high-quality technical content, real-world experiences, scientific outreach, and advancements in modern amateur radio.

WE KNOW YOU'RE RETIRED...
...BUT THIS IS ONE BILL WORTH PAYING!
BARG MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL REMINDER
The HF nets won't run themselves.
The 2 metre net controller would like a night off occasionally.
And coffee tastes better when you're still a BARG member!
If your membership renewal is still sitting under a pile of Amateur Radio magazines, now might be a good time to rescue it.
I thought I'd already paid!
You said that last year too!
At least he remembered the coffee morning.
VK3... what's the reminder again?
AMATEUR RADIO FUN, FRIENDSHIP & SERVICE
BARG BALLARAT AMATEUR RADIO GROUP
THE BARG CHECKLIST
HF NETS
2 METRE NETS
COFFEE MORNING
RENEW BARG MEMBERSHIP
RENEWAL NOTICE
DON'T DELAY!
BARG COFFEE CREW
QST Amateur Radio CQ WIRELESS RADIO COMMUNICATION
Good friends Great radio Stronger together
MORNING COFFEE GOOD YARNS GREAT MATES
BARG ON AIR SINCE 1930
BALLARAT AMATEUR RADIO GROUP
A friendly reminder to renew your membership.
BARG
Thanks for being part of the BARG family!
barg@barg.org.au
SEE YOU ON THE NETS (AND AT COFFEE MORNING!)

The BBC Announces the closure of Radio 4 on Longwave

Contributor Tom VK3DMK, from a reference from Ian VK3AXH
https://rsgb.org/main/radio-sport/rsgb-contest-club/bbc-long-wave-shutdown/
https://www.bbc.co.uk/reception/work-warning/news/radio4lw

The Last Days of 198 kHz

The end of BBC Long Wave and the closing chapter of a broadcasting institution

When the BBC closes its Long Wave service on 198 kHz at 0100 BST on 27 June 2026, an extraordinary chapter in broadcasting history will come to an end.

The Long Wave transmitting stations: Droitwich in Worcestershire, Westerglen near Stirling in Scotland and Burghead overlooking the Moray Firth also in Scotland, will all be closed down that day.

For nearly ninety-two years, the UK's long-wave network has carried news, culture, sport, emergency information and the famous Shipping Forecast.

To radio amateurs, it has also been a trusted frequency reference and a familiar signal that seemed likely to outlive us all.

Timeline of a Broadcasting Giant

- 1932 – Westerglen begins test transmissions in Scotland.
- 1934 – Droitwich enters service and becomes Britain's principal long-wave station.
- 1936 – Burghead expands long-wave coverage in northern Scotland.
- 1939–1945 – Long-wave broadcasting supports wartime communication requirements.
- 1978 – European frequency reorganization results in operation on 198 kHz.
- 1990s–2010s – Radio tele-switching and utility signaling continue alongside program broadcasting.
- 2026 – BBC Long Wave service closes.

The Droitwich Legend

Among radio amateurs, Droitwich occupies almost mythical status. The station's 500 kW transmitter and distinctive Marconi T aerial became one of the most recognizable radio installations in Europe. Countless enthusiasts used the carrier as a frequency calibration reference, while listeners simply knew it as the source of Radio 4 Long Wave.

"For many radio amateurs, 198 kHz was the signal that was always there."

More Than Entertainment

Long Wave offered unique advantages over higher-frequency broadcasting services. Its ground-wave coverage reached remote rural areas and maritime regions that could be difficult to serve reliably by other means. The Shipping Forecast became a national institution, appreciated by sailors and landlubbers alike.

Droitwich transmitting station – the best-known long-wave site in the UK.

Frequency: 198 kHz
Wavelength: Approximately 1515 metres
Propagation: Predominantly ground wave with excellent regional coverage
Typical Use: National broadcasting, maritime information and utility signaling

The Final Amateur Radio Tribute

The Radio Society of Great Britain and the BBC Amateur Radio Group have organised commemorative activity to mark the occasion. Special event stations GB1500M, GB198LW, GB198END and GB198KHZ will be active around the shutdown period.

Suggested Photo Captions

- Droitwich transmitting station – the best-known long-wave site in the UK.
- A classic receiver dial showing the famous 1500 metre marking.
- GB1500M operators commemorating the final week of BBC Long Wave.
- Historic BBC engineering equipment associated with long-wave broadcasting.

DROITWICH

The 150 kW. station at the new site is now in operation. The building is also designed to house the Midland Regional transmitter, of 50 kW.

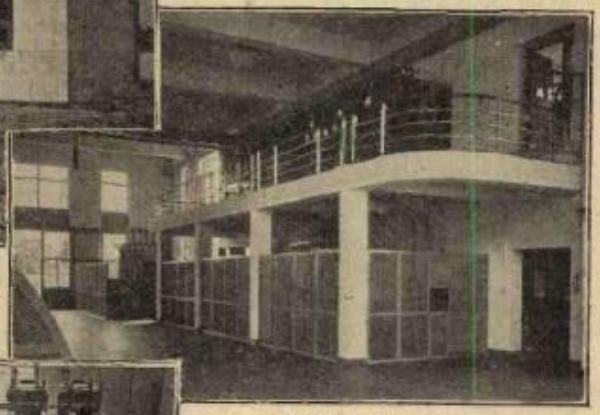
The aerial transformer house and National aerial down-lead termination.

THE B.B.C., and Mr. Noel Ashridge, the Chief Engineer and his colleagues in particular, are to be congratulated on the completion of Droitwich, the latest of their transmitters, which, as the National station, commenced transmissions last week.

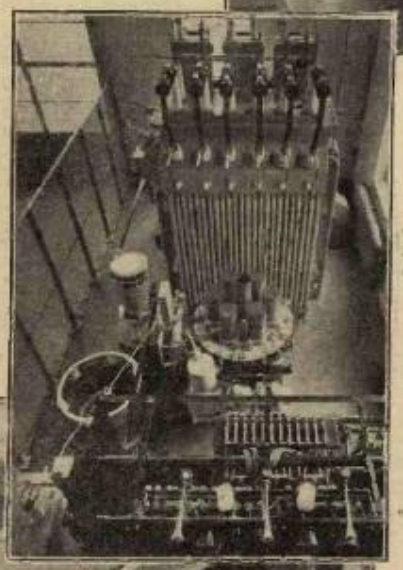
It is, perhaps, scarcely correct to refer to the station as complete, because although a part of the machinery is already installed for the Regional transmitter, this equipment will not be ready for operation for some time.

The group of pictures appearing on this page gives a general idea of the layout of the station and the general arrangement. The control table located in the gallery is of special interest, as from here the entire equipment is supervised. The planning of the station has also been so arranged that the engineer at the control table has an almost complete view of the distributed equipment.

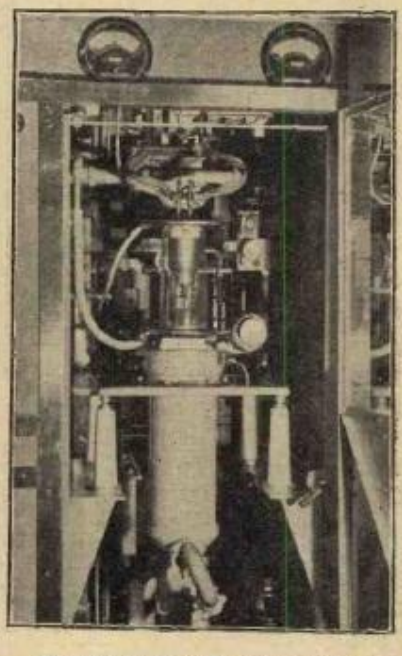
The B.B.C. has stated "it will not be possible to determine the exact performance of the station until it has been in regular service for at least a year," but already listeners will have noted with satisfaction the very great improvement in signal strength and quality in almost every part of the country.



The high-tension machine room.



Ground floor of the transmitting hall. (Inset) One of the mercury arc rectifiers.



One of the 50 kW. valves in the final push-pull modulated-high-frequency stage.

Why Long Wave Matters

Long-wave broadcasting occupies a unique place in radio history. Operating at frequencies below 300 kHz, long-wave signals can travel hundreds of kilometres by ground wave, providing reliable coverage over large areas with relatively few transmitter sites.

For many decades, services such as BBC Radio 4 Long Wave on 198 kHz delivered national coverage to listeners in cities, rural communities and at sea. The service became famous for carrying the Shipping Forecast, Test Match Special and other programs that reached audiences far beyond the range of typical medium-wave stations.

Radio amateurs have long appreciated 198 kHz as a convenient frequency reference and propagation indicator. Its steady carrier was a familiar presence on receivers throughout the UK and much of Europe.

The closure of BBC Long Wave marks more than the end of a broadcasting service—it represents the passing of one of the last links to the great era of high-power national radio broadcasting.

Why the LW service is closing

The company that owns and operates the LW broadcast equipment has confirmed that the system is reaching the end of its life. As LW is an older broadcasting technology, recent years have seen a decline in listener numbers, with the majority now opting for FM and DAB digital platforms.

Westerglen Mast

Burghead Mast

2026 VKFF NATIONAL GET TOGETHER ALBURY, NEW SOUTH WALES

FRIDAY 30th OCTOBER 2026, SATURDAY 31st OCTOBER 2026 SUNDAY 1st NOVEMBER 2026

FORMAL REGISTRATION FOR THIS EVENT IS NOW OPEN.

YOU MUST REGISTER TO ATTEND THIS EVENT (USE LINK BELOW)
https://www.wwffaustralia.com/2026-vkff-national-get-together.html

The 2026 VKFF National Get Together will include:

Friday evening dinner - 6.30 p.m. 30th October 2026 - Sodens Hotel

Saturday presentations - 8.30 a.m.-5.00 p.m. 31st October 2026 - Commercial Club

Saturday evening dinner - 6.30 p.m. 31st October 2026 - Commercial Club

Sunday morning BBQ - 8.00 a.m. - Australia Park, South Albury

Sunday evening dinner - 6.30 p.m. 1st November 2026 - Albury Brew House

NOTE; YOU MUST REGISTER TO ATTEND
'Walk-ups' to the event will NOT be accepted.

Magazine Reviews

Amateur Radio Vol 94 No 3 2026

AMATEUR
Radio
OFFBEAT ANTENNAS & MORE
Dude! Stub out that SWR
Foundation Class rig – Part 2
Easy antennas for new-hand ops
Getting licence proof from ACMA
Vol. 94 • No. 3 • 2026

P4 Editorial. Roger VK2ZRH. High power and the different opinions in this month, “Over to you “section.

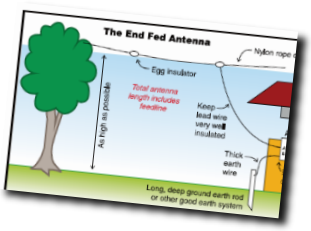
P5 Your WIA working for you. Need proof of Amateur Licence documentation from the ACMA? Justin Giles-Clark VK7TW, WIA Director. Details of ACMA process to get proof of license for overseas operation.

P6 WIA news. WIA’s strong response to new ACMA work program. 70cm threat from mass of LEO satellites. RSGB publishes question bank.

P8 Annual Awards. Awards for 2025 contributors – seven souls selected Roger Harrison VK2ZRH and the Publications Committee.

P13 A new twist to an old helix. Carmel Morris VK2NO. Theory and practical assembly of a helical antenna and making it portable. Tuning and fitting it to mounts suitable for tracking and easy deployment.

P24 New to ham radio? Simple antennas to start with, Ya don’t need a Yagi to get ya YaeComWood on-air. Roger Harrison VK2ZRH. Answers for new operators and those deciding to get the most out of the space they have in the backyard. Simple wire construction and equipment connections.


The End Fed Antenna
Nylon rope
Egg insulator
Total antenna length includes feedline
As high as possible
Keep lead wire very well insulated
Thick earth wire
Long, deep ground earth rod or other good earth system

P26 Dude! Stub out that SWR Stubs – a too long ignored antenna match problem solver, Roger Harrison VK2ZRH. Looks practically at the idea of tuning stubs and how they work.

P28 History can throw up some unexpected surprises The Wireless Reserve and the WIA, Part 2. Peter Wolfenden VK3RV, WIA Historian. The continuing story of the RAAF, Wireless Reserve and the WIA. The politics and those amateurs who contributed to the many accomplishments.

P34 2025DX Leaderboard.

P37 80/40m transceiver for Foundation operators and new-hand constructors. Part 2. Lou Destafano VK3AQZ. The transmitter section including the balanced modulator and band pass filtering with PA section.

P56 WIA news New RRL and amateur radio. Some questions arising from the new RRL.

P57 Contesting. Reflections on the 2026 John Moyle Memorial Field Day. Diane Main VK4DI and Alan Shannon VK4SN. Reactions and feedback from the 2026 John Moyle and the scoring, software and distance-based scoring.

P59 WestNews Will McGhie VK6UU. Update on the Wireless Hill historical mast at Applecross, Perth. Input from Bob VK6KW about earth radials and mast. 6WF update. Images of the capacitive top-hat that forms a major part of the 6WF mast.

VHF Group microwave day – from Dave VK6KV. Report of activities from Wireless Hill.

P61 ALARA Norma O'Hare, VK2YL. International Women's Day, March 8th, encouraged many ALARA members to operate from various parts of the country. Diane VK4DI earns gold award in the WWA-YL event. Introducing Raghavi VU3LCE. Yukiko Maki T88YL, 7K4TKB goes portable in Palau. Field day afloat on the Ganges. Michelle VK2AYL conquers the skies.

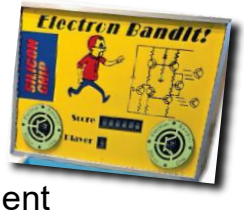
P65 WIA DX Awards. Marc. VK3OUM/VK3IP.

Silicon Chip Review June 2026

P2 Editorial Viewpoint. Nicholas Vinen. Adjusting sound parameters and default settings with digital sound systems.

P16 Analog Computers.. Part2. David VK3DSM. Discusses the re-emergence of analog in the neural modelling and AI.

P26 Phenomenal Pinball Machine. Part 1. Phil Prosser. How to make a traditional pinball but with modern materials and techniques. 3D printing and roll your own layout.



P36 Inspection Reports for PCBs. Steve Mansfield-Devin for PCBWAY. Shows the testing and inspection of PCBs in the modern high speed production systems we are offered these days for even our humble projects.

P43 Human Comfort Indicator. Tim Blythman. A USB powered environment monitoring meter to report on the comfort offered in your home with the current basic environmental measurements.

P54 Installing a whole-house sound system. Julian Edgar. How to and what's available to fill your house with sound and balance it to your needs.

P60 Simple USB power monitor. Richard Palmer. Using a handful of parts to make a simple voltage and current monitor for your USB power system.

P66 Working with e-Paper Displays. Tim Blythman. The ins and outs of this unique display that does not need constant power to keep its display visible. Used in the comfort meter, the physics and control needed is discussed.

P70 Micropower SSB Transmitters. Andrew Woodfield, ZL2PD. An exercise in making the SSB version of the CW "OXO" transmitter, using as low a component count as possible yet producing a readable signal.

P80 Serviceman's Log. Dave Thompson. Musical Instrument, USB ASIO card, Washing Machine, Li-ion Charger, Dyson Fan, Samsung TV.

P88 Vintage Radio. Dr Hugo Holden. Sailor 66T Navigation Radio. A VLF receiver designed for Atlantic Ocean navigation manufactured by a Danish company, SP Radio Aalborg.

Ballarat Amateur Radio Group Inc
Registration Number A0006953T
ABN 44 247 200 143
Application for Club Membership

This completed document can be emailed to the Secretary at BARG@BARG.ORG.AU, or brought along to a face to face meeting.

Surname: _____ **Given Names:** _____

Callsign: _____

Are you a financial member of WIA?: **Yes** **No** *(Required for Insurance purposes)*

Partner's Name:_____

Residential Address: _____

Postcode:_____

Postal Address: _____
(If different to above)

Telephone;
*(Work)*_____ (*Home*) _____ (*Mobile*)_____

Email Address_____

Newsletters and Club information will be sent to your email address. If you require Special Club notices and Newsletters to be delivered by Australia Post to your mailing address, this will attract an additional cost of $30 per annum.

If the Club decides to publish a Club Directory, are you willing to have your Given name, callsign and telephone number? Please indicate: **Yes** **No**

By applying for membership I indicate my support of the purposes of the Association and agree to comply with the Association rules and any supplementary rules in effect.

Applicant's Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

Proposed By: _____ **Callsign:** _____ **Date:** _____

Seconded By: _____ **Callsign:** _____**Date:** _____

--ooOOoo--

Presented to Committee: _____ **Decision:** Accept / Reject

Fee Paid: $_____ **Date:** _____**Receipt No.** (if applicable:)_____

Entered into Membership Register:_____ **Secretary**: _____

BARG Form - Membership Application Form (was V3) Rev PA12.docx 1of 1